

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02588 101010Z

12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SS-15 NSC-05 /076 W  
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R 091735Z MAY 75  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1714  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAPE  
USLOSACLANT  
CINCLANT  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS USNATO 2588

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO  
SUBJECT: EWG MEETING MAY 9, 1975: ANY OTHER BUSINESS--CONSULTATIONS  
ON ACE FORCE PROPOSALS 1977-82

AT EWG MEETING MAY 9, 1975, UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS, SHAPE REP  
(BG MILLER) CIRCULATED COPIES OF A LETTER TO ASYG HUMPHREYS  
CONCERNING CONSULTATIONS ON ACE FORCE PROPOSALS 1977-82.

BEGIN TEXT OF SHAPE LETTER:  
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PAGE 02 NATO 02588 101010Z

SHAPE WILL SOON BEGIN CONSULTATIONS ON ACE FORCE PROPOSALS 1977-82 IN  
NATIONAL CAPITALS. THE PROGRAMME, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED, WAS  
DEVELOPED THROUGH THE NATIONAL MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES AT SHAPE.  
WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION ON PROPOSED DATES FROM NATIONS EXCEPT

PORTUGAL AND THE UNITED STATES. CANADA, WOULD PREFER AN EARLIER DATE THAN 11-12 AUGUST AND THIS PROBLEM CANNOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL WE HAVE THE UNITED STATES RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSED VISIT THERE ON 14-15 AUGUSTS. BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS PRECLUDE OUR MAKING TWO TRIPS TO NORTH AMERICA; HENCE, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO DISCUSS THE CANADIAN PROPOSALS AT EVERE. WE WILL UPDATE THE SCHEDULE WHEN WE HAVE FIRM DATES FOR VISITS TO PORTUGAL, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF THE MEMBERS OF THE DRC WERE PRESENT AT THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS DURING THE CONSULTATION.

NOW FOR A FEW WORDS CONSIDERING THE FORCE PROPOSALS THEMSELVES. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE; HOWEVER, AS YOU KNOW, WORK ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT STARTED LAST YEAR AND WE ARE NOW COMPLETING OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS. WE HAD, PER FORCE, TO START WITH MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ISSUED IN 1973. WE HAVE SINCE BEEN MODIFYING THE DRAFT PROPOSALS AS THE VARIOUS EDITIONS OF DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE BECAME AVAILABLE. TAILORING OF THE PROPOSALS TO CONFORM TO THE GUIDANCE WILL DICTATE MODIFICATIONS UNTIL WE FINALLY SUBMIT THEM TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS OF THE PRESENT EXERCISE THAT I BELIEVE I SHOULD BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION AT THIS TIME. FIRST, OUR COSTING EFFORT HAS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, HAMPERED BY A SHORTAGE OF COSTERS AT THIS TIME MAKING US MORE DEPENDENT ON THE NATIONS FOR COSTING DATA AND BY THE LACK OF FIRM RESOURCE GUIDANCE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE TRUST THAT NATIONS WILL PROVIDE BY 1 JUNE INFORMATION ON THE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR DEFENCE EXPENDITURES DURING THE PERIOD 1977-82. THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL IN ANY CASE TO THE FINALIZATION OF OUR PROPOSALS, BUT RECEIPT LATER IN THE CYCLE WOULD PROBABLY PRECLUDE FITTING THE FORCE PROPOSALS NEATLY WITHIN THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE. WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT DURING THE CONSULTATIONS TO REFINE OUR COSTING AND DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSALS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT INTEND THAT THE ACE FORCE PROPOSALS

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PAGE 03 NATO 02588 101010Z

BE A MERE REFLECTION OF NATIONAL FORCE PLANS AND ARE SEEKING TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM IMPROVEMENTS OF ACE FORCES WITHIN THE SCHEME OF A REASONABLE CHALLENGE FOR EACH NATION.

THIS BRINGS ME TO MY SECOND POINT. WE ARE DILIGENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ORDER PRIORITIES RIGOROUSLY AND TO COMPLY WITH BOTH THE SPIRIT AND THE

LETTER OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. IT IS APPARENT TO ME THAT THERE WILL BE CONFLICTING VIEWS BETWEEN SHAPE AND THE NATIONS ON BOTH PRIORITIES AND INTERPRETATION OF OTHER ASPECTS OF THE GUIDANCE. I HOPE THAT OUR CONSULTATIONS WILL RESOLVE MOST OF THE PROBLEMS BUT THAT WHERE THEY CANNOT BE RESOLVED THAT THEY WILL CLEARLY ILLUMINATE THE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

AND RESOLUTION BY OTHER AGENCIES LATER IN THE FORCE GOALS DRILL.

I AM PROVIDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE  
DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

CONSULTATIONS ON ACE FORCE PROPOSALS 1977-82  
VISITS TO NATIONAL CAPITALS MODS/CHODS  
MAY/AUGUST 1975

PLACE	DATES	REMARKS
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COPENHAGEN	26-27 MAY	CONFIRMED
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OSLO	29-30 MAY	CONFIRMED
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LUXEMBOURG	3 JUNE	CONFIRMED
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BRUSSELS	9-10 JUNE	CONFIRMED
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THE HAGUE	16-17 JUNE	CONFIRMED
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ANKARA	23-24 JUNE	CONFIRMED
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ROME	26-27 JUNE	CONFIRMED
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BONN	1-2 JULY	CONFIRMED
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LISBON	4 JULY	NOT CONFIRMED
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LONDON	8-9 JULY	CONFIRMED
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OTTAWA	11-12 AUGUST	NOT ACCEPTABLE
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WASHINGTON	14-15 AUGUST	NOT CONFIRMED
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END TEXT

STREATOR

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**TAGS:** MPOL, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAPE  
USLOSACLANT  
CINCLANT  
ANKARA

BONN  
BRUSSELS  
COPENHAGEN  
THE HAGUE  
LISBON  
ANEMBASSY LONDON  
LUXEMBOURG  
OSLO  
OTTAWA  
ROME

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